

Telehealth Technology Grant Announcement Q&A

On August 20, 2015, the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) released an announcement for grant applications (Grant ID MHCC 16-010) entitled *Telehealth Technology Pilot- Round Three*.¹ The MHCC received the below questions from potential applicants regarding this announcement. The MHCC is making available our responses to questions received from potential applicants. This document will be updated as we receive additional questions.

1. **Question:** Do you have any progress updates on existing grants?

Answer: The MHCC awarded two rounds of telehealth grants that are currently being implemented. In the first round, three grants were awarded in October of 2014 and grantees are required to submit a final report in November of 2015. In the second round, three grants were awarded in April of 2015 and grantees are required to submit a final report in June of 2016. Information regarding the grant awards can be found on the [Telemedicine page of the MHCC website](#). Project information on the first round of grants are included in [materials that were presented at a Telehealth Symposium on February 25, 2015](#) and slides from the [Telehealth Symposium Update webinar held on June 24, 2015](#).

2. **Question:** Are the telehealth pilot grantees limited to utilizing professionals practicing in Maryland and could grantees serve patients living in other jurisdictions? For example, could a grantee utilize a physician located in Washington, D.C. to provide telehealth services to a patient located in Maryland and vice versa?

Answer: Applications that include serving non-Maryland residents will be considered. The MHCC would prefer that the majority of those being served by the grantee are Maryland residents. Applicants can include health care providers located outside of Maryland, however, grantees must ensure that participating health care providers comply with the Maryland Board of Physician's Telemedicine regulations:
<http://www.mbp.state.md.us/pages/regulations.html>.

3. **Question:** Who is eligible to apply for a grant? Could Home Health Agencies involved in tele-monitoring apply for the grant?

¹ The announcement is available here:

http://mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/documents/MHCC16_010.pdf

Answer: Grant applications are open to any health care entity able to implement a telehealth project. Home Health Agencies would be eligible to apply for the grant. The grant application includes a list of four preferred use case and allows applicants to propose an alternative use case. Alternative cases may not include the three types of use cases listed that have been previously funded. The list of exclusion includes “use of telehealth to manage hospital Prevention Quality Indicators.” This use case is being implemented using home telemonitoring to reduce hospital admissions. Alternative proposals from home health agencies that meet the requirements listed in the application will be considered.

- 4. Question:** Are grant applicants required to be licensed physicians or could other health professionals apply for a grant?

Answer: Grant applicants are not required to be licensed physicians. Applicants may include any person or organization that is engaged in health care delivery and has the capacity and infrastructure to use telehealth technology. Applicant must have experience in telehealth, electronic health record, and health information exchange deployment. The MHCC is seeking applicants with experience in assessing, developing, and managing telehealth. In order to meet the grant’s objectives, successful proposals will require the involvement of health care professionals licensed to provide clinical services with the State of Maryland.

- 5. Question:** Does a grant applicant have to be a US citizen or could an international candidate who is licensed by a Maryland professional health board and currently legally practicing within the State of Maryland apply for a grant?

Answer: Grant applicants may include non-citizen health care professionals who are licensed by a State of Maryland professional health board to practice within the State of Maryland. We are seeking applications from organizations, agencies, or health systems that have the capacity and infrastructure to utilize telehealth technology.

- 6. Question:** If a proposal is selected that includes a non-citizen health professional, would the non-citizen applicant get a visa sponsorship to work on this project by getting support with one of the health care settings in Maryland?

Answer: This Telehealth Technology Pilot grant is not a contract for employment. The MHCC provides funding to organizations to implement this grant. Visa sponsorships would have to be made as part of an employment relationship. Employer applicants who sponsor health care professionals are eligible to apply for this grant.